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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 29 | Min 19 | Humidity 70% Mainly Clear sky Sensex 85,632 | Nifty 26,192 | Gold 1,24,260 | Silver 1,65,000 | Dollar 88.70 | Euro 101.95 | GBP 115.83

Bengaluru's road-cleaning lease has raised dust, doubts and political heat; while GBA defends decision as being backed 1 year's research, critics say approved cost of Rs 613.25 crore doesn't add up

NOT QUITE DONE & DUSTED

Sridhar.Vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

A project meant to keep Bengaluru's major roads dust-free has instead kicked up a dust storm. The State government's approval of a ₹613.25-crore plan to lease mechanical sweeping machines for seven years — across the five newly carved city corporations — has come under sharp scrutiny. While the Opposition alleges a cosy contractor-government nexus, activists say why not make better use of manpower instead.

The plan promises to cover 1,688 km of arterial and sub-arterial roads: 298 km in Central, 310 km in East, 390 km in West, 320 km in South and 370 km in North. A total of 59 machines are expected to be hired. The initial proposal, pegged at ₹781 crore for an 84-month lease, was trimmed by the Urban Development Department, bringing the final approved cost to ₹613.25 crore.

Under the model, the sweeping cost comes to ₹894.53 per kilometre. Each of the five corporations will float separate tenders, and officials have been told to ensure that these rented machines are not duplicated

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

CITY / PAGE 3

SMOOTH OPERATORS

Over 60% of city bike thefts traced to interstate networks transporting stolen wares across rural borders via low-vigilance routes

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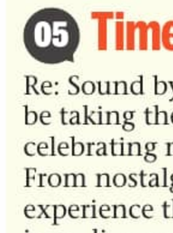
THINGS TO DO

01 Art across eras

Virasat Art and Virasat Art Publication are presenting 'Hindustan Files: 1757–1950', a unique exhibition celebrating art, history, and heritage. The exhibition will showcase Company School paintings, works by eminent European artists, Kalighat patachitra, Kansaripara lithoprints, vintage books, letters, photographs, and rare documents. **Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumarakrupa Road; When: Until November 23**

02 Craft corner



'The Festival of Handmade' is bringing together over 200 groups from across the country in a vibrant and exciting market that showcases exquisite handicrafts. **Where: Jayamahal Palace Hotel; When: November 26 to 30**

03 Play time

Primetime Theatre Co is presenting 'Dance like a Man', directed by Lilette Dubey, delving into the lives of two Bharatanatyam dancers past their prime, contrasting their struggles with that of their daughter, who is on the verge of becoming a successful dancer. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: December 6, 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm**

04 Musical legacy

After the huge success of the first edition, Sitar Rama Rao Utsav is back with a 2nd edition. The festival celebrates the life and music of one of Karnataka's own sons, Pandit NR Rama Rao. The show will feature performances by renowned stalwarts of the music world. **Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleshwaram; When: Nov 28, 6 pm**

05 Timeless melodies

Re: Sound by Jet ALive featuring Lucky Ali will be taking the audience on a soulful journey, celebrating music that has defined generations. From nostalgic classics to new age soundscape, experience the timeless charm of a musical icon, live on stage. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: December 6, 7 pm**

Early autism screening boosted by technology

Research on new system to detect early signs of Autism Spectrum Disorder underway; children to be screened based on computer analysis of 20-minute play-based sessions

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima
@timesofindia.com
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Early detection of autism is entering a new phase, with researchers turning to computer vision to identify subtle behavioural cues in toddlers long before traditional assessments do. A Bengaluru-based study is developing an automated system that analyses children's interactions during play to flag early signs of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). By focusing on multimodal analysis of 26 behaviours, the project aims to enable timely screening and intervention.

The work, led by Prof Dinesh Babu Jayagopi, aims to detect autism in children as young as 18 months by closely analysing their behaviour during natural play. "Early detection is vital because it allows early intervention, better long-term development, reduced stress for family etc. The current project is designed to automatically detect autism through behavioural analysis, using advanced computer-vision tools," said Prof Jayagopi.

The study is being conducted in collaboration with CARE-ADD at St John's Research Institute. It focuses on children between 12 and 42 months who take part in a 20-minute play-based session. The session includes toys, interactions with a parent, and guided play with an assessor.

New technology aims to detect autism in children as young as 18 months by closely analysing their behaviour during play

All of this is recorded and later analysed by the computer-vision system.

Prof Jayagopi said the system studies 26 behaviours that are considered clinically important. "These include key early social cues such as eye contact and joint attention. By combining information about facial expressions, gaze, and body posture, the model identifies subtle differences in social engagement that can indicate early signs of ASD, enabling timely screening and intervention," he said.

Prof Jayagopi highlighted that the system is currently being trained on a dataset of approximately 80 ASD and 40 non-ASD children, collected under a clinically supervised protocol. He said the data is tested through several layers of evaluation, including cross-validation and independent test sets. The team, he noted, is also using AI tools to help clinicians understand how the model is making its predictions. "These tools highlight the behavioural cues contributing to each decision, which helps professionals check whether the system is focusing on behaviour that is truly relevant," he said.

Safeguards for privacy concerns

Strict privacy measures are in place to protect participating children. All video recordings are collected only after obtaining written informed consent from parents or legal guardians. The recordings are stored securely, identifying details are removed, and the data is used only for research approved by the ethics committee.

System studies 26 clinically important behaviours, combining facial expressions, gaze, body posture to identify subtle social engagement differences indicating early ASD signs, says lead researcher

Early detection deemed crucial

Speaking to BM, Prof Jayagopi said that early detection of Autism Spectrum Disorder significantly improves long-term developmental outcomes because early childhood is a period of heightened neuroplasticity. "Research has shown that early support reduces the severity of core symptoms, enhances functional communication, and supports better social and adaptive development ultimately improving independence and quality of life," he said.

The researchers note that behaviours involving child–human interaction, rather than child–object interaction, are particularly significant for early detection. They add that social cues show clear differences between ASD and non-ASD groups, often as early as 18–24 months.

While the project is still underway, early findings are promising. If successful, this system could become an important tool for early autism screening in India, especially in settings where access to specialists is limited.

Leopard dies at Bannerghatta Biological Park

Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) reported the death of a male leopard on November 19. The leopard was brought to BBP after being rescued from BRT Tiger Reserve on January 3, 2023, at the age of three months.

The animal had reportedly stopped eating on October 30, following which a blood sample was taken by the BBP authorities and sent for examination. It was deduced that the leopard had high fever, dullness, and anorexia. After one week of treatment, the animal started eating again in small quantities.

On November 13, the leopard stopped eating once more, prompting collection of a blood sample for examination. Despite resuming treatment, he remained recumbent and died on November 19 due to extensive blood and fluid accumulation in the thorax and abdomen, which caused lung collapse and cardiomegaly. Visceral samples have been collected and forwarded to the IAH&VB Lab for further analysis.

"Animals dying in the zoos is a common phenomenon, and the reports of the same are sent as per the Recognition of Zoo Rules and Wildlife Protection Act to all those concerned with proper post-mortem reports," said BBP authorities. **— BMB**

Unauthorised road digging to attract heavy penalties

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has directed all five newly formed city corporations to impose steep fines whenever unauthorised road digging is detected. Speaking at a review meeting, he said fresh roads are repeatedly damaged by unapproved excavation, creating avoidable civic problems. He instructed officials to process all digging requests through a dedicated software and issue permissions strictly under the single-window system. Rao also pushed corporations to prioritise property-tax collection by clearing pending cases, resolving court disputes and fast-tracking B Khata to A Khata conversions as per rules. Applications for E Khata must also be cleared within deadlines. **— BMB**

Zoo cashes in on animal dung

In a cue for other zoos in the state, Mysuru's Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens has quietly been running one of the most unusual revenue generators: converting daily animal dung into vermicompost and selling it to farmers at a rate lower than the market. Spread across 80 acres and home to more than 143 species, the zoo collects 2–3 tonnes of dung every day from elephants, rhinos, deer, giraffes, hippos and others, mixes it with fallen leaves and leftover fodder, and processes it into nearly 15 tonnes of vermicompost every month. Each pile is layered like a bed, watered, covered, seeded with earthworms and left for 40 days before being filtered and packed — one heap alone yields up to 5 tonnes. Priced at just Rs 15 per kg, the compost has drawn demand from farmers across districts, turning what was once considered waste into a steady income stream. An official said that the zoo earned Rs 15 lakh from selling 100 tonnes in 2024–25, with another Rs 5 lakh already added this year. The chemical-free manure is helping farmlands while the worms remain protected behind nets and traps set up to keep predators like rats at bay. **— BMB**

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Cash van robbers switched vehicles, used fake plates

Police probe into the daylight cash van heist has revealed that the gang repeatedly switched vehicles and used fake number plates after the robbery. Senior officials, however, clarified that no arrests have been made yet.

Home Minister G Parameshwara said on Thursday that investigators are now pursuing "strong leads" and are confident of making arrests.

"It is still not clear which vehicle they eventually used to escape. What we have verified is that they changed vehicles and moved the cash. We are also examining whether any of these vehicles left Karnataka," he said. One of the vehicles, a Toyota Innova, was found carrying a registration number belonging to a different car model.

According to police sources, the Innova was traced to Andhra Pradesh, where the suspects are believed to have travelled soon after the robbery.

Teams have been reviewing hours of CCTV footage from across Bengaluru and neighbouring districts. Footage gathered during the investigation indicates that two members of the gang may have conducted a recce on November 17 in JP Nagar. CCTV clips show two suspected gang members entering a bar in the area around 1.38 p.m. and leaving in 10 minutes. **–BMB**

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Loose border checks fuel growing interstate bike theft

Over 60% of city bike thefts traced to interstate networks smoothly transporting stolen motorcycles across rural borders using buses and low-vigilance routes

Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

In a major recovery on Tuesday, City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said that stolen bikes were being sold to villagers in Tamil Nadu, many of whom were using the vehicles without even changing the registrations. He added that the city police are contemplating discussions with the Transport Department and Tamil Nadu Police to enhance vigilance along cross-border routes.

Arrests helped police detect 37 bike-theft cases across Bengaluru

Recent crackdown cases

In a significant crackdown on this cross-border racket, Bengaluru Police recently arrested several suspects and recovered 42 Royal Enfield two-wheelers valued at ₹1 crore. According to the police, the gang followed a set modus operandi: travelling to Bengaluru by bus from Tamil Nadu, targeting luxury motorcycles parked in residential areas, and then transporting them back to various districts in Tamil Nadu.

Police said the accused confessed to stealing Royal Enfields across multiple parts of the city, including Adugodi, Byatarayanapura, Siddapura, Viveknagar, Baiyappanahalli, Halasuru Gate, Bandepalya, Bommanahalli, Chamarajpet, Cottonpet, KG Nagar, Kalasipalya, Kodigehalli, and Madiwala.

During interrogation, the accused revealed that the stolen motorcycles were sold to friends and relatives in different Tamil Nadu districts. The arrests also helped detect 37 bike-theft cases registered across several Bengaluru police stations.

In a separate but related case, the Indiranagar police arrested another accused and recovered 20 two-wheelers worth ₹24 lakh. Investigations revealed that 13 of these bikes had been given to an associate in Anna Nagar (Tamil Nadu) to be sold, while the remaining motorcycles were kept at a vacant plot in Kadirenapalya and near the accused's residence in RT Nagar.

Officials noted movement and resale of stolen bikes indicate offenders exploiting weak border vigilance and verification gaps, particularly in rural pockets where registration checks remain inconsistent and oversight limited

Border vigilance gap

There is currently no dedicated check-post on the Karnataka–Tamil Nadu border, despite previous letters requesting one. This continuing gap is being exploited by bike thieves and traffickers. Without a permanent checkpoint, stolen vehicles are transported out of Bengaluru using rural routes that face minimal scrutiny.

At the same time, the same porous stretches are being used for wildlife and contraband movement. In the MM Hills region, police had earlier written to forest authorities seeking a check-post at the Gopinatham–Palar junction due to concerns about poaching and illegal transportation. The lack of coordinated monitoring, officials say, is enabling not only interstate bike-theft networks to operate freely but also facilitating illicit wildlife trafficking along forest routes.

Citywide crime statistics show that two-wheeler thefts are surging. In the first quarter of 2025, Bengaluru accounted for 44% of all vehicle thefts reported in Karnataka, averaging nearly 350 bikes stolen every month. Police officers say the scale of the recent recoveries indicates operations far beyond routine crime. The seizure of nearly ₹1 crore worth of stolen motorcycles points to a structured interstate network, complete with organised transport routes, handlers, and consistent buyers in Tamil Nadu.

Officials noted that the way these bikes are being moved and resold suggests they are taking advantage of weak border vigilance and verification lapses, especially in rural pockets of Tamil Nadu where vehicle registrations may not be rigorously checked.

Coordination ahead

Senior police officials confirmed they will be writing to the Transport Department regarding the issue and will seek reinforced coordination to tighten enforcement. This comes after the Police Commissioner, in his recent briefing, emphasised that the matter requires joint action with Tamil Nadu Police and the Transport Department, given the clear interstate movement of stolen vehicles.

83-year-old loses life savings in impersonation con

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

An 83-year-old retired Army colonel lost more than ₹56 lakh after fraudsters posing as Mumbai Crime Branch officers threatened to implicate him in a fabricated case and gained access to his bank accounts.

The incident began on October 27 when the victim received a call from a man introducing himself as Inspector Sanjay Pishe of the Mumbai Police. He claimed that a mobile number registered in the victim's name was being used to "harass the public" and warned of immediate arrest if he failed to appear before the police.

When the victim explained he was unable to travel due to age and health constraints, the caller transferred the case to a woman identifying herself as officer Kavitha Pomane. She offered to "assist" him through a video call, during which she and another impersonator, Vishwas, repeatedly threatened arrest unless he cooperated and kept the matter confidential.

Fearing consequences, the victim surrendered his personal data, family details, bank access credentials and investment information. The fraudsters claimed his assets needed temporary freezing for an "RBI verification" linked to suspected money laundering.

From October 27 to November 12, they accessed his accounts, liquidated his mutual funds, and transferred ₹56,05,200 under the pretext of scrutiny. They promised the funds would be returned in three days but then disappeared.

Realising he had been cheated, the victim filed a complaint. Police have warned the public not to trust callers claiming to be enforcement officials and to immediately report such attempts to the 1930 cyber crime helpline.

Environmental experts flag major pollution risks in BWSSB STPs

Untreated sewage entering cultivation zones due to stalled STP modernisation efforts increases toxic-metal presence in produce, raising urgent concerns regarding long-term health impact across communities

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has 44 upcoming Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) in various stages of development across the city, which together will treat an additional 1,063 million litres per day (MLD) of sewage once operational.

According to the Karnataka Government's affidavit submitted to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), all 44 STPs with a combined capacity of 1,063 MLD have been approved and are progressing through different implementation and tendering stages. Of these, 27 STPs with a total capacity of 480 MLD are currently under construction, and they are expected to become operational by January 2027.

The remaining 17 STPs, with a collective capacity of 583 MLD, are in different stages of tendering and Detailed Project Report (DPR) preparation. These facilities are expected to be commissioned by October 2028. Experts, however, remain concerned that most of BWSSB's existing STPs do not meet the NGT's prescribed norms. They warn that the upcoming STPs may fall short of their intended purpose if they are not equipped with biological nutrient removal systems and technologies to remove heavy metal contamination.

Researchers tested vegetables from four towns for cadmium, chromium, lead, and nickel contamination

In 2023, Environment Management Policy Research Institute (EMPRI) also highlighted issue of heavy metal and pesticide contamination in vegetables

Their concerns follow the findings of a recent study conducted on four widely consumed vegetables grown in rural belts and outskirts of Bengaluru. Researchers examined tomatoes, spinach, carrots, and cabbage sourced from Hosakote, Nelamangala, Attibele, and Malavalli, analysing the presence of cadmium (Cd), chromium (Cr), lead (Pb), and nickel (Ni). All four vegetables displayed higher-than-permissible levels of at least one heavy metal, with spinach exhibiting the highest concentration among the samples.

Researchers noted that the elevated contamination levels were largely due to atmospheric deposition and the use of STP-treated water to irrigate surrounding farmlands. "BWSSB should ensure that every new STP being established is fitted with biological nutrient removal, along with heavy metal contamination removal. None of the existing STPs have been retrofitted with these technologies, which is proving harmful to public health. The quality of water produced at STPs in their current form is substandard and is contributing to widespread contamination," said V Ramprasad, founder of Friends of Lakes.

In 2023, the Environment Management Policy Research Institute (EMPRI) also highlighted the issue of heavy metal and pesticide contamination in vegetables. Its analysis of 400 samples across 10 vegetable varieties found nickel, lead, cadmium, and iron levels exceeding prescribed limits in areas around Bengaluru.

Following this study, the NGT took suo motu cognisance and directed authorities to conduct a detailed assessment of vegetables sold in the city. Consequently, a Joint Committee constituted by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) carried out field surveys earlier this year. The committee—comprising members from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), ICAR Indian Institute of Soil Science (IISS) Bhopal, and the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS)—surveyed locations including Chikkaballapura, Kolar, Nelamangala, and Ramanagara.

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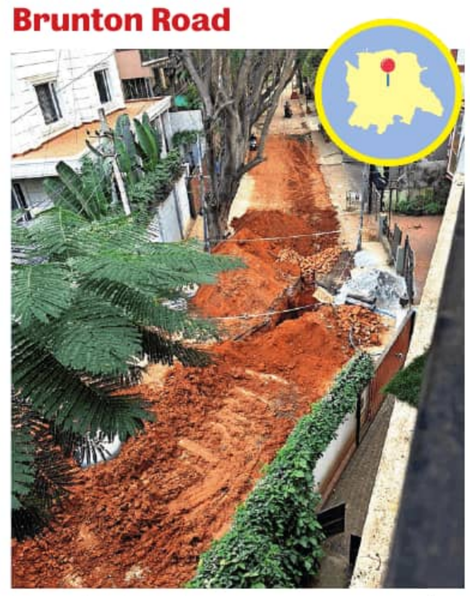
Neglected stretch

Brunton Road



Brunton Road Cross has been left in a neglected, deteriorated state for the past two weeks.

Drain danger

Bagalur

Drain-slab gaps outside a school on Hennur-Bagalur Main Road pose a serious hazard to students, requiring urgent intervention from the EE Major Roads, Horamavu sector.

Gen Z drives cleaner, greener Basavanagudi groundnut fair

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesofindia.com
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The Kadalekai Parishe in Basavanagudi has witnessed a remarkable shift this year, driven by stronger enforcement, wider citizen participation, and energetic involvement from student volunteers. The annual groundnut fair, which began on November 16 and is still underway, has already recorded 700 kg of waste collected through continuous plogging drives—a steep rise from last year's 260 kg. Of this, 200 kg comprised banned plastic, while the remaining was recyclable waste gathered through sustained volunteer-led clean-up efforts.

Ahead of the event, more than 2 lakh paper bags were made by different groups and distributed to vendors across the Parishe. With nearly 600 stalls, Basavanagudi hosts one of the city's largest parishe, and organisers said the wider availability of paper alternatives significantly reduced plastic dependence. Volunteers noted that the higher volume of waste this year reflected improved monitoring and greater manpower. "The waste properly collected and sorted is more... I mean more plastic seized than earlier ones as we had enough helping hands through volunteers and marshals. Without an iota of doubt, we could see more single-use plastics being seized in comparison to the previous years, more plogs and frequent clean-up by the PKs resulting in cleaner streets," said Plog Raja, member of the Zero Waste Collective.

Groundnut fair waste hits 700 kg, far exceeding last year's 260 kg

> **"We volunteered from Saturday to Wednesday, and GBA officials supported us fully, giving strict notices to vendors, seizing plastic, and ensuring cleaner, more disciplined surroundings**
> – Dhruv, Student Volunteer

More than 15 groups—including RWAs, colleges, NGOs, and citizen collectives—participated actively. Rotary Bengaluru Midtown arranged aprons, plogging sacks, and logistical support, and facilitated the distribution of two lakh paper bags to vendors.

Civic enforcement at the fair also saw marked improvement. "The GBA authorities were better and stronger in monitoring this time," said Plog Raja.

For many volunteers, the most striking change came from the enthusiasm of Gen Z participants. "What stunned me was the dedication in waste management from the Gen Z college volunteers. They brought life to the whole team and made the entire effort of volunteering fun and enjoyable," said Eat Raja, known for his plastic-free advocacy.

Student volunteer Dhruv said the strict checks significantly reduced violations. "From Saturday to Wednesday we took up volunteering. GBA officials have been very supportive. They went vendor to vendor and gave notices to keep shops clean and not use plastic. Volunteers were the eye of GBA, and we used to report marshals, seize plastic, and fine them. Even though some had plastic covers, they were not getting them out—there was a fear," he said.

The collected waste is now undergoing further segregation with support from HSR Citizens Forum before being sent to DWCC/BSWML for recycling.

Heritage forum slams poor Parishe maintenance

Residents of Basavanagudi have approached the Greater Bengaluru Authority's West Corporations over poor cleanliness and maintenance at the ongoing Kadalekai Parishe. They say GBA has not delivered on its assurance of twice-daily cleaning. A single cleaning shift and unhygienic toilets have raised health concerns among visitors and residents. "We had previously submitted a letter stressing the importance of maintaining cleanliness and basic amenities. Unfortunately, the issues persist," said RK Guruprasad, secretary of the Heritage Basavanagudi Residents Welfare Forum. Members also flagged neglect of nearby heritage sites and urged GBA to ensure waste management, hygienic toilets, and monument protection.

Marital status no bar to compensation

The Karnataka High Court has reaffirmed that a woman's marital status cannot be the sole basis to deny her compensation as a dependent in motor accident cases. Recognising the social realities of Indian families, the Court observed that daughters and sisters, even after marriage, often retain a strong emotional and financial connection with their parental homes.

Justice Umesh M Adiga, delivering the judgment, noted that it is common for married women to continue relying on their birth families for various forms of support. "In the Indian social context, it is not uncommon for daughters and sisters, even after marriage, to maintain a close relationship with their parental family," the judge said. "Therefore, their right to claim compensation cannot be denied merely on the ground of their marital status."

The ruling came while dismissing an appeal filed by an insurance company against the compensation awarded by the Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal (MACT) in the case of Prem Prakash Menezes, a 44-year-old coolie who died after a bus, allegedly driven negligently, collided with his vehicle. Menezes earned about 500 per day and was known to contribute regularly to his family's needs.

After his death, his brother and married sisters approached the Tribunal seeking compensation, asserting that they depended on his income. The MACT accepted their claim and granted 10.6 lakh as compensation. However, the insurer argued that married sisters, living in their matrimonial homes, could not be treated as legal heirs or dependents and were entitled only to compensation for "loss of estate." The High Court upheld married 'siblings' dependency, claims, dismisses the insurer's appeal. **–BMB**

IN HIGH COURT

No threat, but legal heir gets pistol

The Karnataka High Court has clarified that a legal heir seeking transfer of a firearm and licence under Rule 25 of the Arms Rules, 2016, is not required to prove any threat to life, provided the statutory conditions for familial transfer are satisfied. Justice Suraj Govindaraj delivered this interpretation while allowing a writ petition filed by Michael Mahesh Chris Saldanha, who sought the transfer of his father's licensed .32 calibre revolver in his favour.

The petitioner's father, a lawful licence holder, intended to nominate his son as transferee as permitted under Rule 25(1)(b). However, the licensing authority rejected the application on the ground that the petitioner had not demonstrated any threat perception. Although the appellate authority set aside this rejection, the licensing authority once again, through an endorsement dated July 24, 2025, refused the transfer on the same ground, insisting that absence of threat to life was sufficient to deny the licence.

Challenging this reasoning, the petitioner argued that Rule 25 expressly governs familial transfers of firearms and does not impose any requirement of establishing personal danger or threat perception. Instead, the rule applies in cases where the licence holder has turned 70 or has held the licence for more than 25 years and wishes to nominate a legal heir.

The Court undertook a close reading of Rule 25(1)(b), noting that the provision allows a licence holder who is either over 70 years of age or who has possessed the firearm licence for at least 25 years to request transfer of the licence to a legal heir of choice. HC says threat proof unnecessary for heir tranfer, orders Mangaluru police to issue firearm licence promptly. **–BMB**

Back to drawing board: Of odd splits & quirky borders

Public objections force GBA officials to correct strange splits of roads and properties, ensuring cleaner ward limits across newly formed corporations

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Now that the BBMP has officially been carved into five separate city corporations, it's impossible not to revisit the earlier draft delimitation map and marvel at its Ripley's Believe It or Not–level oddities. The draft was littered with eyebrow-raising quirks—internal roads sliced between two corporations, dead-end lanes bisected by imaginary borders, and, astonishingly, even a single property split right through the middle as if it belonged to two different civic universes.

According to officials, these bizarre glitches emerged only after the draft was opened for public feedback and were ironed out in the final notification. Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao admitted the anomalies were real but insisted that every such deviation was corrected. "We revised the final ward delimitation after examining all public representations. Some of the earlier drafts had odd boundary splits—internal roads falling under two different corporations and even one property divided between two jurisdictions. All such anomalies have now been corrected, with only minor adjustments made to include a few colonies appropriately," he said.

After the GBA came into force, a dedicated ward-delimitation commission was constituted on September 2. Based on its recommendations, the Urban Development Department issued a draft notification on September 30 and invited objections for 15 days. More than 4,000 objections poured in and were scrutinised before the final map was approved. Bengaluru West, with the city's highest population, is the only corporation to gain an additional ward; the rest retain their original numbers.

In the final tally, Bengaluru West has 112 wards, followed by Bengaluru South and North with 72 each, Central with 63, and East with 50—along with corrected spellings, renumbering's and minor naming fixes across the board.

Final delimitation reshaped boundaries after widespread feedback flagged colony misplacements, spelling mistakes and the need for cleaner, rational ward mapping

Thousands of citizens flagged glaring anomalies in the draft delimitation, prompting authorities to revise boundaries, fix spelling errors, adjust colony placements and allocate an extra ward to population-heavy Bengaluru West

Lucky Number 9?

The State government's final ward delimitation notification quietly added one extra ward to the Bengaluru West City Corporation—taking the overall tally across the five new corporations from 368 to 369. Officials point out, with a hint of amusement, that the total now aligns with the numerological "lucky" number 9.
But for those reading cosmic meaning into the reshuffle, administrators say there's no mysticism involved.

The reconfiguration of areas—such as EMI Colony becoming Parvathi Nagar and the splitting of Rajeshwari Nagar—had nothing to do with lucky numbers.
GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao made it clear that the adjustments were guided solely by citizen objections and ground-level realities, not numerology. "Every change was based on public feedback," he reiterated

Minister's land papers used in forgery racket

Lokayukta sleuths have unearthed a shocking twist in a widening forgery racket, discovering that even land belonging to Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda was misused to generate fake bonafide certificates for tax evasion. The investigation, which led to raids at six locations across Kolar district including Chintamani, has exposed a network accused of fabricating fraudulent land-ownership certifications to illegally obtain exemptions on tractor purchases. Officials revealed that a staggering 1,387 forged bonafide documents were created, some linked to survey numbers of land legally owned by the minister. Six individuals have been booked under the Prevention of Corruption Act in connection with the scam.

The operation, led by Lokayukta SP Anthony John, saw teams search the homes and premises of the accused from early morning until late evening, seizing files, digital data, and other incriminating material. Investigators found that land parcels in multiple villages of Narsapura hobli in Kolar taluk were exploited to produce fake bonafide certificates in the names of unrelated individuals. These certificates, issued fraudulently under the Revenue Department's framework, were crucial documents used to claim tax exemptions on tractors meant strictly for agricultural use.

The forged certificates were then submitted across RTO offices in Kolar, Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural and surrounding districts to register tractors and trailers illegally. Once registered as agricultural vehicles, many of these tractors were reportedly diverted for commercial and private use, allowing operators to evade road tax, insurance charges and eligibility fees. **–BMB**

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NGT orders swift compliance check at Bigg Boss Kannada studio

KSPCB must reinspect the Bidadi studio within seven days after the operator claims full rectification of pollution and consent violations

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The southern bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has disposed of the case on a closure direction issued by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) to the Bigg Boss Kannada studio at Bidadi in Bengaluru South more than a month ago.

In its final order passed on November 19 (Wednesday), the tribunal directed the state pollution control board to carry out a fresh inspection of the studio to verify whether the operator has complied with all requirements. The NGT instructed the KSPCB to conduct the inspection and issue appropriate orders "at the earliest, however not beyond seven days from today (November 19)."

The order came after Vels Studios and Entertainment Private Limited (Jolly Wood Studios & Adventures) submitted to the tribunal that it had rectified all deficiencies flagged by the KSPCB. The company informed the NGT that it had written to the Pollution Control Board on October 29, requesting an inspection of the facility and reconsideration of the closure direction. It also stated that its applications for Consent for Establishment and Consent for Operation remain pending with the Board.

The KSPCB had issued an immediate closure notice to the Bigg Boss Kannada studio on October 6, citing multiple violations of environmental regulations. According to the notice, the amusement facility had been established and was operating without obtaining prior consent from the Board, a mandatory requirement even for industries classified under the 'Green' category.

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Although the park authorities had provided an STP with a capacity of 250 KLD, no sewage inflow to the STP was observed

After months of environmental breaches—from untreated wastewater to non-functional STPs—the tribunal has asked KSPCB to verify corrective action and decide on pending clearances, following the studio's plea for reconsideration

Past site inspections revealed several instances of non-compliance. Wastewater generated from various parts of the amusement park was found to be discharged outside the premises without treatment, leading to pollution in the surrounding areas. Although the park had installed a 250 KLD sewage treatment plant (STP), officials noted that no sewage was flowing into it. All STP units were empty and had not been commissioned.

The park was also operating two diesel generator sets of 625 KVA and 500 KVA capacity. Solid waste generated at the site was being dumped in the open without segregation or scientific handling.

The Board had first issued a notice to the company in April 2024. However, during a follow-up inspection in June, officials observed that the violations had continued. Following this persistent non-compliance, the regional officer recommended closure under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

The NGT's direction now places full responsibility on the KSPCB to reassess compliance swiftly and decide the studio's future operations accordingly.

Siddaramaiah steadies govt amid political tremors

The Siddaramaiah-led Congress government has completed two-and-a-half years in office, entering the second half of its tenure while balancing political turbulence and governance expectations. This period has been defined largely by the rollout and consolidation of the Five Guarantees, which the administration cites as proof that welfare commitments need not drain state finances. The government also highlights key decisions such as declaring Karnataka a Naxal-free state, implementing internal reservation, advancing farmer-centric measures, and pushing reforms in the revenue department. Though controversies like the MUDA issue, allegations involving the Valmiki Corporation, and claims of a 30% commission by contractors sparked political heat, the government maintains these were either exaggerated or unsupported by records. Minor disputes — from the Dharmasthala Burude case to the RAS episode — triggered debates but did not disrupt cabinet stability or governance continuity. Yet the central question persists: will Siddaramaiah be allowed to complete the full five-year term, or will a leadership change be orchestrated mid-course? **–BMB**

Workers unite against exploitation, demand dignity

The All-India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU) held a round-table on November 20, 2025 to address Karnataka's entrenched contract labour system and the denial of dignified minimum wages. Speakers highlighted how contract, casual, and temporary employment strip workers of rights, deepen caste-class-gender inequalities, and keep Dalits, Adivasis, and women in insecure, underpaid jobs. Representatives from HAL, GATWU, and BBMP pourakarmikas detailed delayed wages, lack of social security, gender discrimination, and historic struggles that won direct payment and regularisation. Experts stressed that exploitative employment harms not just workers but families, children, public health, and social equity. The meeting resolved to fight for abolition of the contract system, regularisation of all workers, and the immediate notification of a ₹42,000 monthly minimum wage. A State-wide protest will be held on November 27, with several unions and labour leaders participating. **–BMB**

Upa Lokayukta raps Mandya officials over Cauvery sewage

Repeated warnings ignored as officials fail to stop untreated sewage entering Cauvery, prompting strict orders, deadlines and mandatory coordinated action

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka Upa Lokayukta has directed the Deputy Commissioner of Mandya to take measures to resolve the discharge of sewage water into Cauvery River and send an action taken report. The Upa Lokayukta has directed all the respondents including Assistant Commissioner of Pandavapura to appear before him with the action taken report on November 27.

In his latest order, the Upa Lokayukta expressed strong displeasure that despite earlier directions issued on June 3, July 16, July 31 and September 3, the authorities had failed to implement effective corrective steps to stop the flow of untreated sewage into the Cauvery. He observed that the drinking water consumed by residents of Mandya, Pandavapura and even Bengaluru continues to be endangered due to the absence of a functional sewage treatment plant at Srirangapatna, resulting in underground drainage water entering the river without proper treatment.

The Upa Lokayukta further emphasised that it is the constitutional duty of every citizen as well as public officials—including the Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Tahsildar and other officers—to protect and improve the natural environment under Article 51A(g) of the Constitution. He noted that safeguarding rivers, lakes, forests, wildlife and all living beings is a shared responsibility, especially when public health is at stake.

With no functional STP and poorly maintained wet wells, sewage keeps mixing with Cauvery water used by residents of Mandya, Pandavapura and Bengaluru

He directed all officers present to ensure coordinated action between departments and to maintain the five wet wells constructed in Srirangapatna. These wet wells, supervised by the Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board (KUWS), are meant to lift underground drainage water from Srirangapatna town and Ganjam. The order stressed that these facilities must be operated and monitored in line with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board's July 30, 2025 buffer-zone notification, particularly to prevent effluent from submerging the Cauvery during the monsoon.

The Deputy Commissioner has also been instructed to convene a meeting of all concerned officers to devise a permanent and long-term solution to the issue, ensuring clear timelines, stronger accountability mechanisms and continuous on-ground monitoring, along with regular follow-up reviews to assess compliance and emerging challenges.

The suo motu case was registered on June 3, 2025 after it was found that sewage from the vicinity of Wellesley Bridge in Srirangapatna taluk was mixing with the Cauvery. The Upa Lokayukta noted that despite repeated directions, officials have taken no substantial action beyond their appearances before him, and criticised them for failing to act with the seriousness and urgency required to protect public health and ensure clean drinking water for the region, warning that continued inaction would not be tolerated moving forward as the matter concerns vital environmental and human safety.

She invests smart, turning digital tokens into security

Platform statistics highlight rising participation across metropolitan hubs, younger professionals favouring structured plans, demonstrating strong confidence in alternative financial ecosystems

INFOCUS
WOMEN INVESTORS

A growing number of Indian women, especially young professionals in metro cities, are steadily entering the world of digital assets, marking a clear shift in investment behaviour and financial independence. New platform data indicates that women are not only becoming more aware of crypto but are also making informed choices by favouring established and relatively stable digital assets.

According to the latest data, women aged 25–30 form the largest share of female crypto investors, making up 53% of the total user base. They are followed by women in the 31–35 age group at 36%, while younger investors between 18–24 account for 11%, signalling early but growing participation among Gen Z.

Geographically, Maharashtra leads with 15% of the total female investor base, followed by Karnataka at 11%, indicating stronger adoption in major tech and financial hubs. Overall, metro and Tier-1 cities contribute 75% of women's crypto participation, pointing to higher awareness and accessibility in urban centres. However, the remaining 25% coming from smaller towns shows a rising trend of adoption beyond metros. The data also highlighted that, in terms of investment preferences,

women are gravitating towards well-established digital currencies. Bitcoin, Ethereum, Ripple, Litecoin and Solana have emerged as the most popular choices, reflecting a preference for relatively stable and trusted assets within the volatile crypto ecosystem.

Edul Patel, CEO of a crypto trading app based in Bengaluru, said, "Most women entering the crypto space prefer long-term investing, typically with a 3–5 year horizon or more. We see many starting with systematic investing, as SIPs offer discipline, lower risk and steady exposure to the market. Alongside SIPs, women are also increasingly exploring direct investments, focusing mainly on established blue-chip assets for stability. Interestingly, meme coins are also finding a place in many women's portfolios. This shows a growing appetite for short-term, trend-driven opportunities, where they balance their long-term strategy with small, calculated bets on high-momentum tokens. Overall, their approach combines stability, consistency and a willingness to experiment."

Patel also highlighted that, based on a survey conducted earlier this year, 62% of women discuss crypto investment decisions with family and their social circle, while 38% make decisions independently. Additionally, 33% of women learnt about crypto from the news, 40% from social channels, and the remaining 27% from other sources, demonstrating that social media plays a significant role in influencing investment decisions among crypto investors.

Sumit Gupta, Co-Founder of a bitcoin investment and crypto trading app, disclosed that Bengaluru's women are increasingly turning to Crypto SIPs as a disciplined, long-term strategy, shifting from opportunistic trading to structured, goal-driven investing. The simplicity of SIPs, along with risk mitigation and low entry barriers, is enabling more women to steadily accumulate assets such as Bitcoin and Ethereum without large upfront investments. "This shift signals rising confidence in digital assets and a deeper pursuit

Data shows women aged 25–30 form 53% of crypto investors, with metros driving 75% participation and rising SIP adoption

of financial independence. On our platform, Crypto SIPs have rapidly emerged as one of our most preferred investment features. Over 1 lakh investors have created more than 150,000 SIPs, with an average monthly investment of approximately INR 1,200. This momentum highlights the growing preference for disciplined and long-term wealth creation within India's evolving crypto landscape," he said.

Vikram Subburaj, CEO of a crypto trading platform, said Bengaluru women are entering digital assets with disciplined, long-term investment habits. He noted women form about 5% of traders aged 18–35, rising to over 20% in the 36–50 group, reflecting a preference for systematic investing such as Crypto SIPs. He added that young professionals are treating crypto like mutual funds, making it a structured, future-focused part of their portfolios. Subburaj said this signals growing financial confidence among women investors. He added that this shift is driving one of the most stable phases in India's crypto adoption.

—**Iffath Fathima**

BMTC ACCIDENTS

2 senior citizens die in separate BMTC bus accidents

Two separate fatal accidents involving BMTC buses have once again raised concerns about road safety and driver negligence in the city. In the first incident, a 69-year-old woman lost her life at Vijayanagar Circle after being struck by an electric BMTC bus. The victim, identified as Susheela, had travelled from Nagarbhavi. After getting down from the bus, she was attempting to cross the road from the front of the bus when the accident occurred.

Police officials explained that the bus driver failed to notice her and continued moving forward, resulting in her instant death. Incident took place around 11.45 am. The driver reportedly fled the scene immediately after the incident. In a separate tragedy, another pedestrian was killed in Madiwala on the same day at 6.30 am. Venkataramayya, a 65-year-old vegetable seller, was returning from the market when he was fatally hit by a BMTC bus at the Madiwala bus stand. The bus was operating on a route from SMBT Railway Station to Silk Board. According to preliminary reports, the driver is suspected of negligent driving, and it is said that the bus may have collided with two other vehicles before striking the pedestrian.

—**BMB**

SOCIAL TATTLE

Bangalore Mirror mentioned

A X user has posted Bangalore Mirror's story on the protest held in the city against the Supreme Court order asking for relocation of street dogs.

Dr. Amit Chaudhery @powe... · 10h
Animal lovers rally against dog relocation - Bangalore Mirror
bangaloremirror.indiatimes.com

What's Tweeting

@srinivasalavilli writes on X that the BMTC live tracking system is working fine. He dedicates the posts to those who claim that BMTC's airport buses are not traceable on the app, sharing a screenshot of all buses showing up.

Srinivas Alavilli @srinuala... · 1h
#LiveTrackingBMTCBusInBengaluru
This is for those that keep making claims that @BMTC_BENGALURU Airport buses are not traceable & not even on the Namma BMTC app!
A few minutes ago, I got out of a meeting on Infantry Road.
Opened Namma BMTC app
Clicked on "Track a Live Show more
Friends Of BMTC and 9 others

An Indian tech-related handle doffs its hat to Bengaluru saying that the city is home to 2.5 million software professional among 13 million in the country.

Indian Tech & Infra @India... · 1h
Bengaluru is home to 2.5 million software professionals out of a population of 13 million.
BANGALORE

IN BRIEF

Teen nabbed for street harassment

Police have arrested a man in connection with the harassment of a 25-year-old advocate from the city. The woman was allegedly harassed while taking her pet dog for a walk near Upkar Layout in the Jnanabharathi Police Station limits on Friday night. Police said they arrested 19-year-old Vignesh, a resident of Byadarahalli, in connection with the incident on Tuesday, and he is currently being questioned.

According to the complainant, the incident occurred when she was on her usual evening walk with her dog. An unidentified man reportedly approached her and requested permission to pet the animal. As several people often interacted with her dog, she allowed him to do so. While petting the dog, the man allegedly initiated a conversation before attempting to touch her inappropriately. The advocate said she immediately objected and stepped away. However, when the man allegedly tried to touch her again, she pushed him aside and slapped him. As she raised an alarm, the man fled the spot. In the commotion, her mobile phone slipped from her hand, and the accused allegedly picked it up before escaping.

—**BMB**

Drivers get 50% relief on pending challans

The Karnataka government has issued an order granting a 50% concession on fines for pending traffic e-challan cases issued by the Police Department and the Transport Department. The decision follows multiple proposals and recommendations from various government bodies, including the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority and the Commissioner for Transport and Road Safety.

According to the new order, the concession will apply to all pending traffic e-challan cases registered between 1991–92 and 2019–20, marking one of the most extensive settlements ever offered in the state. The rebate will be available for a limited period from November 21, 2025 to December 12, 2025.

This announcement builds on earlier government orders issued in February, March and July 2023, which similarly provided temporary 50% concessions on pending fines. Those discounts were limited to cases recorded before February 11, 2023 and required settlement within specified deadlines.

A recent appeal by the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority urged the government to extend such concessions to long-pending cases, some dating back to 1991. The Transport Commissioner subsequently recommended a fresh settlement window, emphasising the need to clear decades-old pending challans.

The Finance Department has approved the proposal, and the new order is now officially in effect. Vehicle owners with long-pending challans have been urged to take advantage of the limited-time concession period. The move is expected to significantly reduce the backlog of unpaid fines and improve compliance with traffic regulations across the state.

—**BMB**

Sweeping dust storm

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

under any other government scheme—particularly Swachh Bharat—or the numbers will have to be pared down.

Practical, not pricey: Govt

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao defended the leasing model, insisting it was a calculated decision backed by a year of analysis.

"We studied this in depth—self-propelled versus truck-mounted machines. Buying new units comes with huge operational and maintenance burdens, so hiring them is financially safer," Rao said. He added that the cost projections placed before the State Government included machine value, daily sweeping KPIs of 40 km, staffing, maintenance and logistics. "Hiring shifts the maintenance load to the supplier. And remember, GST alone adds 18%—without it, the cost drops by more than ₹100 crore." Rao insisted the cabinet-approved plan will now go into competitive tendering. "If quality machines come in at half the projected price, we will buy. We're not rigid. Mechanical sweepers significantly cut road dust, and we will publish our full calculations for public review."

Man vs machine

But critics say the math—and the logic—doesn't add up. V Ramaprasad, founder of Friends of Lakes openly questioned the rush towards mechanisation. "Why this distrust in manpower?" he asked. "On major roads, one pourakarmika covers 330 metres; on minor roads, 530 metres in a day. Based on this, around 11,000 pourakarmikas and their families will be impacted. Was this impact ever assessed?"

He argued that if officials claim machines are hard to maintain, it implies engineers are ineffective. "Who benefits? The contractor. He gets work for 200 people while 11,000 workers lose their livelihood security." He questioned how corporations can justify buying luxury cars but not essential machines, and warned that costs quoted today may escalate. "If a machine breaks down for a day, productivity collapses. That doesn't happen with human workers. Let me clarify that we are not against machines but definitely not the machines at the cost of Pourakarmikas," he said.

> **"We studied this in depth—self-propelled versus truck-mounted machines. Buying new units comes with huge operational and maintenance burdens, so hiring them is financially safer**
>
> — M Maheshwar Rao, GBA Chief Commissioner

Opposition smells scam

The political flank has sharpened its attack. Leader of Opposition R. Ashoka accused the government of "looting Bengaluru in the name of cleaning," arguing the math simply doesn't tally. "A machine costs ₹2.5 crore. Add ₹5 lakh per year for staff and maintenance. Buying 46 machines should cost around ₹308 crore, not ₹613 crore," he said, calling the lease a "massive misuse of public funds." JDS youth wing leader Nikhil Kumaraswamy echoed the concerns: if a sweeper costs ₹1.33 crore to buy, how does renting cost ₹613 crore? Both BJP and JDS have demanded Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar furnish a detailed explanation, especially since he oversees Bengaluru. As the debate swirls, what began as a dust-reduction initiative has ironically turned into one of the city's dustiest controversies yet.

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tender & notices

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Notice is given on behalf of my client **M/s. SAANVIPRIYA BUILDTECH PRIVATE LIMITED** is willing to purchase the property which is more particularly described in the schedule hereunder is owned **Mr.S.M.Muniyappa** S/o **Late. Munishamappa**, My client has decided to Purchase the said schedule property.

It is hereby informed that any person(s) having any claim in respect of the above referred property or part thereof by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, gift, maintenance, inheritance, possession, lease, tenancy, sub tenancy, lien, license, hypothecation, transfer of title or beneficial interest under any trust right of prescription or preemption or under any Agreement or other disposition or under any decree, order or Award or otherwise claiming, howsoever, are hereby requested to make the same known in writing together with supporting documents to the undersigned at the office of Ashvik Law Associates, Advocates and Solicitors, within a period of 15 days of the publication hereof failing which the claim of such person(s) will deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned.

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I, Mrs. Ancy Joseph, wife of Mr. Moses K P Chandran, intend to purchase the Schedule Property from its owner Mr. A. Aziz Qader, S/o Late Mr. A. Qader. Anyone or any entity having any claim, right, title, interest, objection, or charge over the property must notify me with supporting documents **within fifteen (15) days** of this notice. If no objections are received, the sale will proceed, and no claims will be entertained thereafter.

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Sd/- Ancy Joseph
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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Ashwini H.S W/o Anand Kumar C S,residing at No.53,university Layout, Beml 5th Stage,Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore- 560098 here by state that my Son's name has changed From Daiwik Chowkahally Anand to Daiwik Anand, vide affidavit Dated : 19/11/2025 Sworn before Notary K.V. Prema Kumari, Bangalore

I, Rohini Sanju Acharya w/o Sanju Dhanrajan Acharya R/o B134, SJR Palazza City, Chrysler Block, Sarjapur Main Road, Doddakannalli, Bengaluru 560035 have changed my name to Rohini Acharya Affidavit Dt.20/11/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Kiran Kumar Sahukar, Trinco Manvantara, No 5, Kanakapura Road, near HARA VIJAYA HEIGHT, Apartment, Talaghattapura, Uttharahalli Manavarthekaval, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560109 have changed my name to Kiran Kumar Sahukara for all purposes.

I, Narayana Yallappa, S/o Yallappa, R/o No.28, 20th Cross, 29th Main Road, BTM Layout 2nd Stage, B'lore-560076, have changed my name to Narayana Abbaiah for all purposes

I Ashwini Raghavendra Badiger, residing at No.330, 2nd Floor, 1st Main, 4th Cross, Paduka Mandira Road, BHCS Layout, Lakkegowda Nagar, Bengaluru 560061. I have changed my son's name to SUDAKSH BADIGER from SUDAKSHA R BADIGER, vide affidavit dated:17/11/2025 before notary S R Thulasikrishna.

I, TARAMANI M N D/o M NARAYANA SWAMY, and W/o.THULASIRAM ANJANEYALU, Born on 23-11-1973, residing at No. 4164, 21st Main, 9th Cross, B Block, Subramanyanagar, Bengaluru-560021 have changed my name to TARA RAM, vide affidavit dt: 20-11-2025 before notary RENUKA C, B.lore.

I, HAREESH, S/o HANAMANT KOPPAR, residing at No.587, 10th D Cross, West Of Chord Road, Mahalakshmipuram, Bengaluru-560086 have changed my name to HARISH KOPPAR, vide affidavit dt: 20-11-2025 before notary Renuka C, B.lore.

I, Susheelabai Donur R/o Flat.406, DS-Max, Shelton NGEF Layout, Mallathahalli, Bengaluru 560056 have changed my name to Susheela Parutayya Donur Affidavit Dt.20/11/2025 Notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Smita Mohan Naregal W/o Anil R R/o 441,4th Cross,12th Main Vidyaranpura B'lore-560097 have changed my name to Smita Naregal.

I, Samiulla Arehalli Mastan R/o No - 1417, Masidi a-- Nimsa Parvathinagar, Attibele, Anekal ,bengaluru Rural - 562107 Have Changed My Name to Sami Ulla for All Purposes.

I, Manjulamma Narayana W/o Narayana R/o #28, 20th Cross, 29th Main Road, BTM Layout 2nd Stage, B'lore-560076 have changed my name to Manjula for all purposes

I, Bakhtiyar R/o No 36/19 Mohsin Manzil 1st Main Road Nanjappa Reddy Layout Bengaluru Have Changed My Name to Baktiyar Aveshbhai Dhamiya for All Purposes.

I, Nadeem pasha S/o Abdul Munaff R/o #41,3rd Cross Williams Town , Benson Town B'luru-560046 have changed my name to Nadeem

LOST & FOUND

I, Mumtaz, W/o Syed Adam, R/o #2815, 12th Main, D Block, 2nd Stage, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru - 560010, have lost my original Passport A2402229, issued at Bengaluru, on 06.09.2025 while shifting my house from HBR Layout. I have given police complaint in this regard with reference no. 1787549/2025. If found please contact me on 7406404663.

Bennett & Coleman THE TIMES OF INDIA

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SO FAR, YET SO NEAR

9 little things that make long-distance relationships easier

It takes a special blend of commitment, creativity, and communication to maintain a long-distance relationship and maintain it well. Yes, it will be challenging to keep connected across the miles, but you can work at nurturing trust, love and closeness with these small intentional actions.

1 Communicate With Intention

Yes, you're communicating regularly, now elevate that communication with thoughtfulness. Don't just share updates, rather talk about your feelings, listen actively to what they say, and share your hopes. Mindful communication will help your partner feel seen and valued across the miles and deepen your intimacy.

2 Go Multi-Mode To Connect

Don't fall into routine – diversity is the key to keeping your interactions lively and engaging. Use texts for quick check-ins, allow voice notes to reflect warmth, try video calls for face-to-face interaction, and even share playlists or photo albums. This mix will help share different facets of everyday life apart.

3 Create Shared Rituals

A weekly virtual date night, a morning coffee together albeit in different cities – shared rituals help to foster a sense of togetherness and routine. These habits will become emotional anchors that both of you will anticipate and find comfort in; they remind you that you're part of each other's daily rhythm.

4 Add Surprising Touches

Brighten up your partner's life with little unexpected surprises — send them a favourite snack, a heartfelt note, or a video message. These thoughtful gestures symbolise your presence across the miles, break the routine, and reiterate that you care for and love each despite the current distance.

5 Enjoy Virtual Experiences Together

Virtual experiences offer a sense of being together – try shared activities such as playing online games, watching a movie simultaneously, or cooking the same recipe on video. The moments of fun and collaboration reinforce your bond through shared joy.

6 Plan Romantic Reunions

Fuel optimism and strengthen commitment by planning for your next meeting. These reunions mark future milestones that both of you can look forward to, and the waiting period is transformed into hopeful anticipation rather than mere endurance.

7 Handle Disagreements With Kid Gloves

Misunderstandings are amplified when you can't see the other person face to face, so approach conflicts with patience and empathy. Avoid abrupt texting – this could cause an escalation of the issue – and instead get onto a video or voice call to discuss the problem calmly. Your willingness to work to resolve problems as a united team will go a long way in strengthening your relationship.

8 Build Connections With Your Extended Family

Involve your partner virtually in celebrations or key moments with family and friends – this will help you create a shared social world. Introduce your partner to the important people in your life in advance, if possible, and then build that bond online to deepen the integration of your relationship into your broader life.

9 Set Goals For The Future Together

Long-distance relationships are better endured and have more clarity when you share a vision of the future. Take the time to discuss timelines, relocation plans, or the next chapter you're working toward. Setting clear goals gives your relationship direction and reinforces your commitment beyond the current challenges of long distance.

— Femina

MIRRORLIGHTS

Researchers find genetic switch that allows uterus to support embryo implantation

For a pregnancy to begin, the embryo must first attach and embed itself into the lining of the uterus – a process called implantation. Failure of implantation is one of the leading causes of infertility and early pregnancy loss, and IVF failures, yet the molecular mechanisms that allow the uterus to become receptive have remained poorly understood.

Now, scientists from the ICMR–National Institute for Research in Reproductive and Child Health (NIRRCH), Mumbai; Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, and Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi, have identified a fundamental genetic switch that allows the uterine lining to acquire a state that supports embryo implantation.

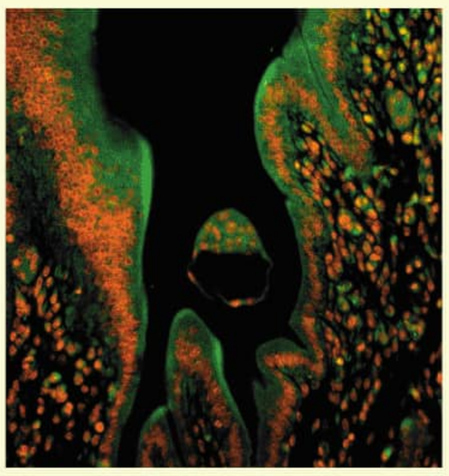
Published in Cell Death Discovery, the study shows that two key genes, HOXA10 and TWIST2, work in opposition to regulate this transition. Under normal conditions, HOXA10 keeps the uterine lining stable and compact. At the time and site where the embryo has to initiate implantation, HOXA10 activity drops, allowing TWIST2 to become active. TWIST2 makes the cells slightly more motile and flexible, enabling the embryo to embed itself.

At the molecular level, HOXA10 controls over 1,200 genes that maintain the epithelial (closed) state of the uterine lining. When HOXA10 levels decline, this control is relaxed, leading to the activation of TWIST2 and the onset of a hybrid epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition (hybrid EMT) – a temporary and partial shift that allows controlled movement of uterine cells without full transformation.

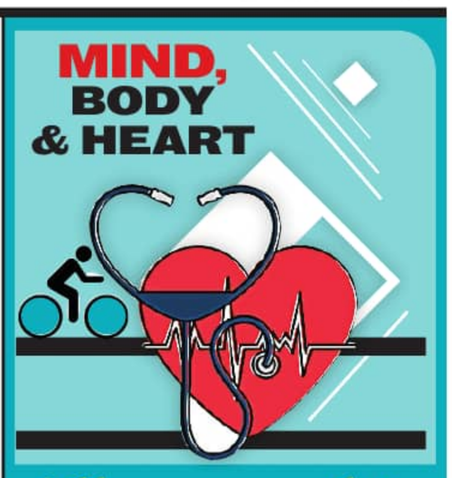
To understand the regulatory logic of this process, researchers at IISc used mathematical and computational modeling to simulate the interplay between HOXA10 and TWIST2. Their models showed that the system behaves like a bistable genetic circuit, capable of switching between epithelial and mesenchymal states in a stable, reversible manner.

"This kind of hybrid EMT state is an elegant solution that nature uses to balance stability and flexibility," says Mohit Kumar Jolly, Associate Professor in the Department of Bioengineering, IISc, who led the modeling work.

The biological studies led by Deepak Modi, Professor and Scientist G at ICMR–NIRRCH confirmed this mechanism experimentally in mice, hamsters, monkeys, and human cells. When TWIST2 activation was blocked, the uterine lining failed to remodel and embryos could not implant, preventing pregnancy.



"This work reveals a finely tuned molecular program that prepares the uterus for embryo implantation. It helps us understand why implantation sometimes fails even when the embryos are healthy," says Modi. **—BMB**



All you need to know about...

Heatwaves

Longer, frequent
Heatwaves could be hotter, more prolonged and frequent, the longer countries delay in reaching net zero emissions, a balance between greenhouse gases emitted and those taken out from the atmosphere, according to a modelling study.

Wait for a millennium?
Trends published in the journal 'Environmental Research: Climate' also indicate that heatwaves do not start to revert towards pre-industrial conditions for at least a millennium even after achieving net-zero targets.
Regions in the Southern Hemisphere are projected to experience heatwaves of significantly increasing severity when net zero was modelled to occur by 2050 or later.

Glimpse into future
Lead author Sarah Perkins-Kirkpatrick, professor of climate science at the Australian National University, said the work challenges a general belief that conditions after net zero will begin to improve for future generations.
"While our results are alarming, they provide a vital glimpse of the future, allowing effective and permanent adaptation measures to be planned and implemented," Perkins-Kirkpatrick said.

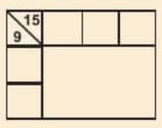
Net zero goal
"It is still vitally important we make rapid progress to permanent net zero, and reaching global net zero by 2040 at the latest will be important to minimise the heatwaves severity," the lead author said.
China, the US and countries in the European Union are among those that have pledged to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 during the UN Climate Change Conference 2021 or COP26, while India has targeted 2070 for reaching net zero.
The authors wrote, "Delaying net zero beyond 2050 results in heatwave regimes that are worse than a transient 2 degrees Celsius warmer world."
Further, they "simply do not see a broadscale reduction in heatwaves for at least 1,000 years regardless of when net zero occurs".

—PTI

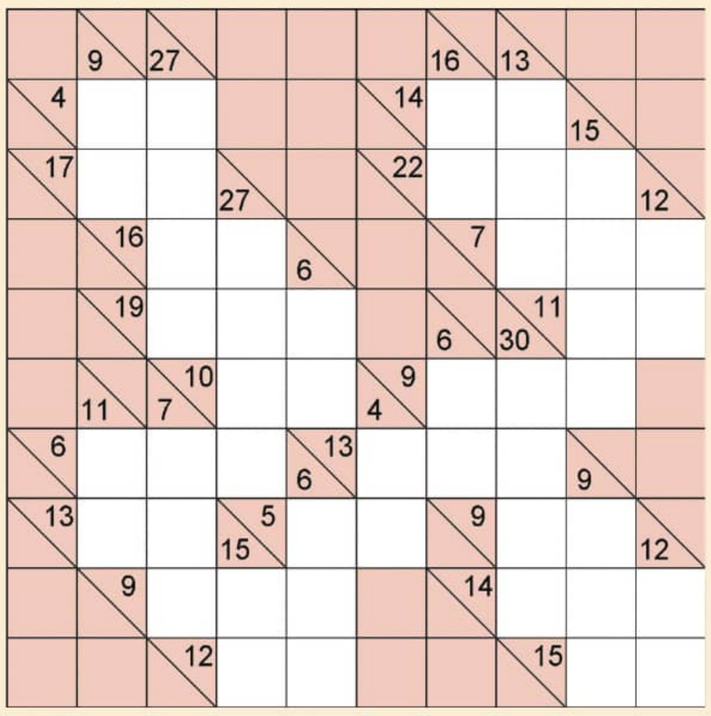
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

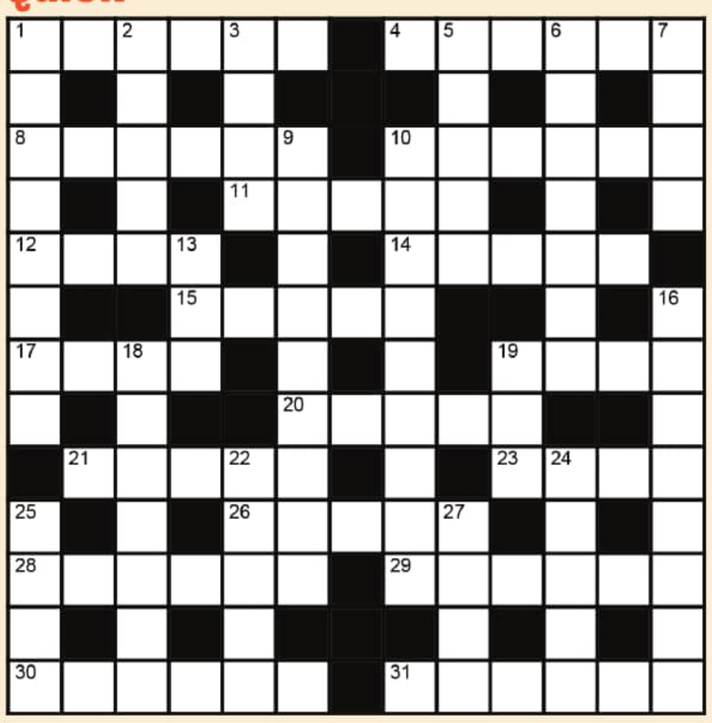
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Indicate; gesture (6)
4 The human soul or spirit (6)
8 Big name in PC graphic cards (6)
10 Long, yellow fruit (6)
11 Boredom (5)
12 A Dravidian language (4)
14 The raised part of a tyre (5)
15 A slave or a serf (5)
17 Top covering of a building (4)
19 State of agitation (4)
20 Myanmar is its new name (5)
21 Ex-India captain Mankad (5)
23 ___-a-brac: things of little value (4)
26 Parents brother (5)
28 Marine growth (6)
29 Cowardly (6)
30 Overturns; spills (6)
31 Keep your __ __ the road : concentrate on driving please? (4,2)

DOWN

1 Relating to health (8)
2 Question intensely (5)
3 Tell __ ___ : fib? (1,3)
5 Flight of steps (5)
6 Indian flat bread (7)
7 Dash or zest (4)
9 Talus (9)
10 Bannerghatta National Park is home to Indias first ____ enclosure (9)
13 Ultra High Frequency (3)
16 Chinese province popular for its spicy cuisine (8)
18 Portending evil (7)
19 Label (3)
22 Should (5)
24 Laws (5)
25 Rebekahs son (4)
27 Like that long and slippery fish? (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: S EQUALS P

GO T MTQBAWLIJ RY KVTNLWM. ARPO SORSNO TQODW VAOB WR TD ODELQRDPODW XZOQO OHIONNODIO LA OHSOIWOB.

Linemaro

Allow me to rescue you from your crowd of admirers

Mindchow

The most important single ingredient in the formula of success is knowing how to get along with people

Joke of the day

I lived in a house that ran on static electricity... if you wanted to run the blender, you had to rub balloons on your head; if you wanted to cook, you had to pull off a sweater real quick

Loop

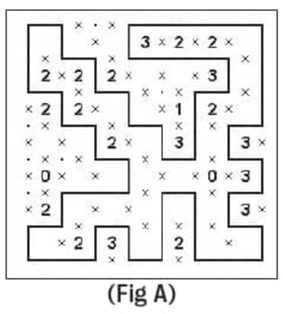
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

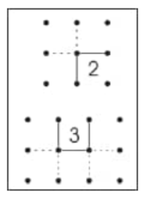
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

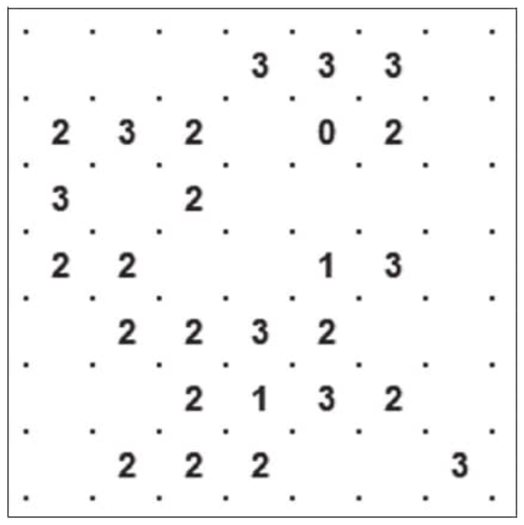
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



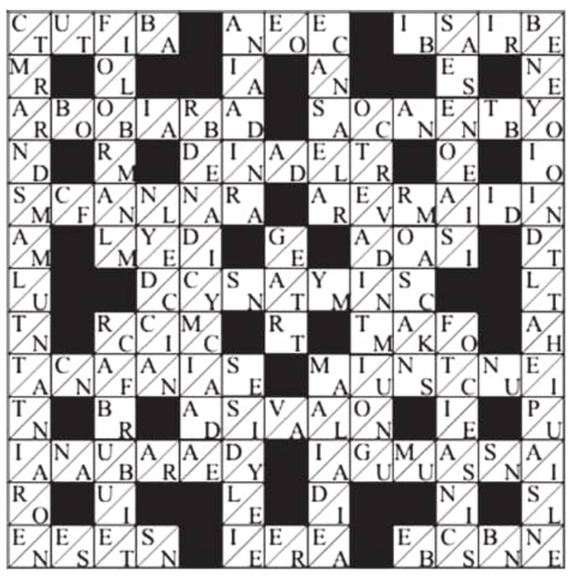
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				D

ACROSS

1 At mud; 6 Toe me;
7 It inn; 8 Isled;
9 Doe mo

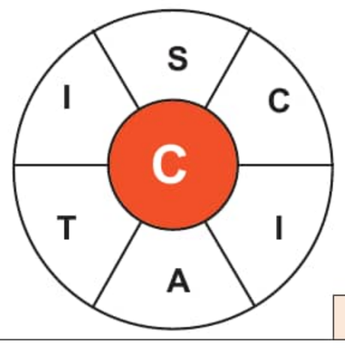
DOWN

1 Dimes; 2 Amino;
3 No dot; 4 Tuile;
5 Ted me

Mensapuzzle

Enter the correct number into the empty square.

4	9	20
8	5	14
10	3	



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; **03** Good; **04** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	5						9	
	6		3		2		7	
		1		5		6		
		2	1	8	6	9		
1			7		5			8
		5	4	2	9	3		
		7		4		5		
	3		6		1		2	
	4						3	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 1
6 7 9 9

Medium = 29
3 8 9 9

Hard = 8
3 5 7 8

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

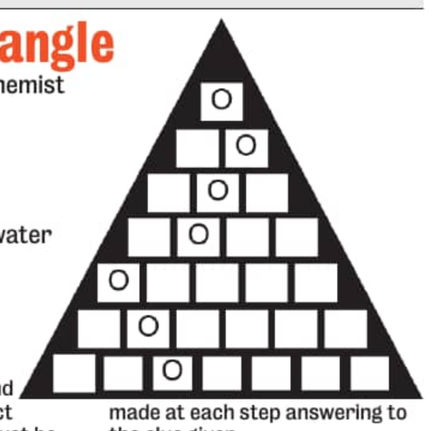
Differences: 1. Woman's arm is moved. **2.** Pot is taller. **3.** Man's finger is moved. **4.** Box is different. **5.** Apron bow is different. **6.** Cabinet is wider.

Riddler

If one person has 12 1/4 sand piles and another 3 3/4 sand piles and they combine them, how many do they have?

Alpha triangle

1 Oxygen for the chemist
2 Wife of, abbr.
3 Use the paddle
4 Had on
5 Proprietor
6 Awe
7 Killed or died in water

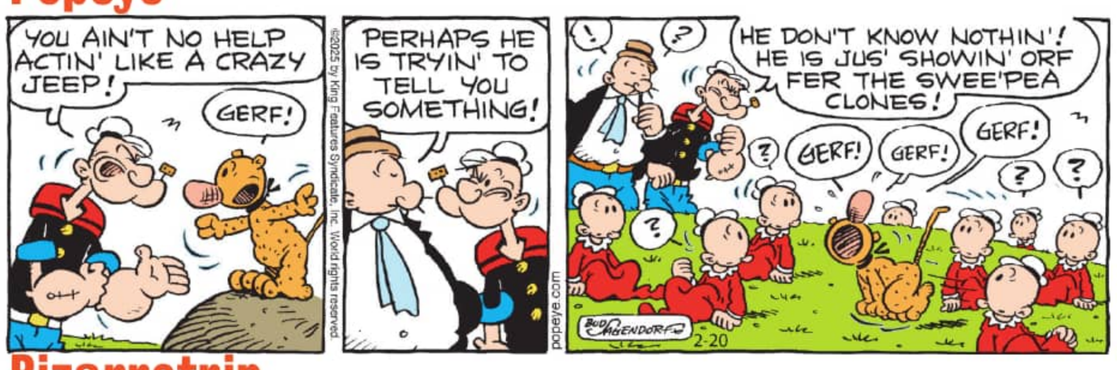


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye


YOU AIN'T NO HELP ACTIN' LIKE A CRAZY JEEP!
GERF!
PERHAPS HE IS TRYIN' TO TELL YOU SOMETHING!
HE DON'T KNOW NOTHIN'! HE IS JUS' SHOWIN' ORF FER THE SWEE'PEA CLONES!
GERF!
GERF!
GERF!
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popeye.com
BOB ONGENDORF
2-20

Bizarrotrip

And you won't be required to work weekends.
Wayno® & 3 Piraro. 8.12.25
HELL'S WORST DAD
BIZARRO.COM Dist. by King Features
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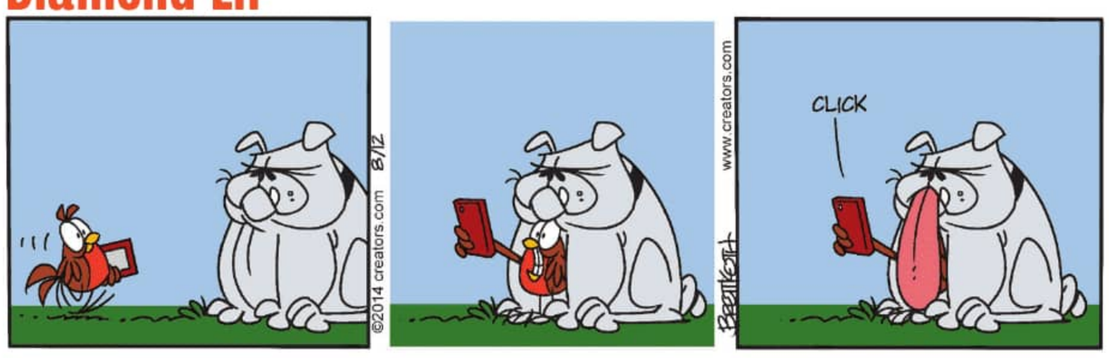
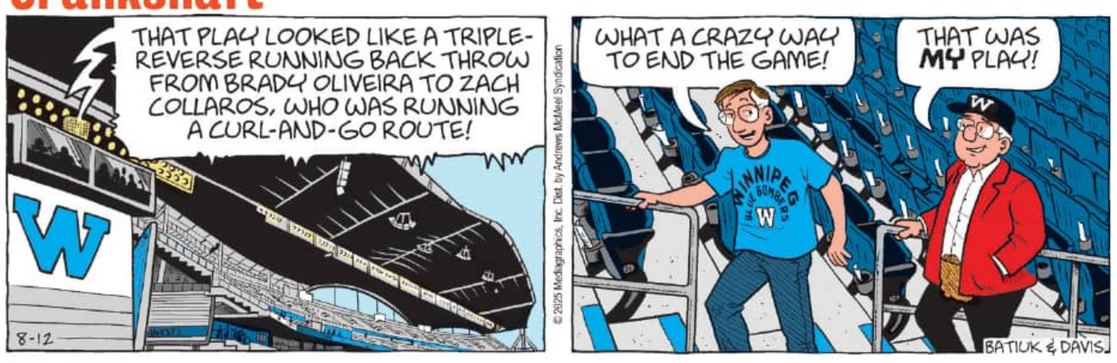
Diamond Lil



Hart of the city

DANA, I'M NOT A BULLY, AND YOU SHOULDN'T BE ONE EITHER.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
YEAH, WELL. IT'S EASIER TO BE A BULLY THAN IT IS TO BE MYSELF.
WHAT?! BUT YOU'RE SO COOL.
I'M VERY COOL. I LIKE WHO I AM. BUT I DON'T THINK MY FRIENDS DO.
@GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY
THEN YOU NEED SOME NEW FRIENDS.

Crankshaft


THAT PLAY LOOKED LIKE A TRIPLE-REVERSE RUNNING BACK THROW FROM BRADY OLIVEIRA TO ZACH COLLAROS, WHO WAS RUNNING A CURL-AND-GO ROUTE!
WHAT A CRAZY WAY TO END THE GAME!
THAT WAS MY PLAY!
© 2025 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Career recognition boosts your professional profile; prepare for new, heavier levels of responsibility. Finances are stable, but guard diligently against minor, unnecessary expenses that add up. Love requires you to successfully let go of old baggage and embrace the present partnership. Family life offers a safe, nurturing haven and emotional replenishment.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Complete key tasks early and organise finances carefully. Planned expenses may rise, but humility ensures success. Avoid dishonest influences, maintain discipline, and teamwork will flourish.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Financial growth is approaching; stay patient and focused. Positive progress strengthens business plans, family support increases, and success in exams or meetings feels likely.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Growth comes through communication and efficiency. Luck supports your work, earning respect and cooperation. Confidence and reasoning enhance success.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Patience early on yields success later. Professional opportunities expand through teamwork and confidence. Positive communication attracts helpful alliances. Stay optimistic; trust and cooperation ensure progress.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Plan carefully and act cooperatively. Follow family guidance, stay patient, and protect health. Avoid rushing major decisions. Balanced communication brings harmony and progress.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Collaborative projects thrive with discipline and teamwork. Complete tasks promptly and maintain professionalism. Property dealings succeed as efficiency increases.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Consistency brings improvement and recognition. Stay alert and disciplined. Manage finances responsibly, avoid unnecessary risks, and remain professional. Diligent efforts yield rewards.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

After midday, confidence grows. Success follows focus and discipline. Listen to elders, think ambitiously, and refine artistic skills. Progress accelerates as you inspire others and achieve goals through responsibility.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Finish key work early, avoid family tension, and practise patience. Emotional restraint strengthens relationships. Learn from elders, manage finances wisely, and stay humble.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Communication enhances family harmony. Distance yourself from negativity and contribute confidently to group efforts. Courage and diplomacy attract respect, travel opportunities, and progress.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Creativity thrives as family bonds strengthen. Financial growth accelerates through smart planning. Communication and generosity elevate your reputation. Stay open-minded; celebrating relationships and collaboration brings fulfilment.

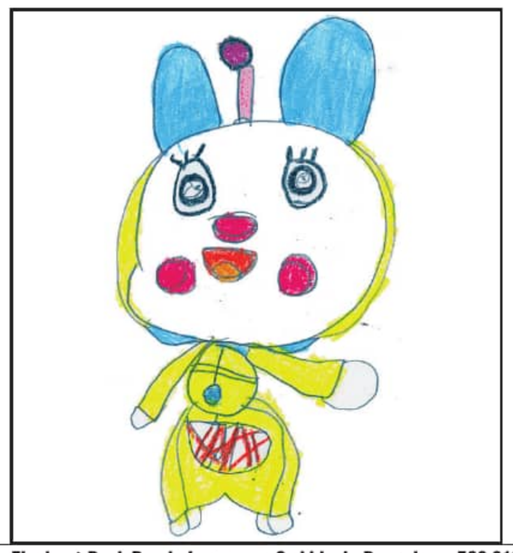
Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Your influence expands through kindness and creativity. Complete key tasks after lunch confidently. Strong communication deepens relationships, while emotional balance boosts charisma and inspires admiration.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Vaishna, Bengaluru



Adrith, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

{(52)^√2 -5^√2+5^√2-5^√2}÷24
{(52)^√2 -5^√2}÷24=
(5^2√2 - 5^√2)÷24 =
5^√2(5^√2-1)÷24

STRIKE OUT

T	U	F	A		N	O	C		B	A	R	B		
R	L		A		A		E		E					
A	B	O	A	R	D		S	C	A	N	T	Y		
N		R		E	I	D	E	R		E		O		
S	C	A	L	A	R		R	E	M	A	I	N		
M	L	E	D		G		D	O	S			D		
U			D	Y	N	A	M	I	C			T		
T	R	I	M		T		T	K	O			H		
A	N	A	N	A	S		M	I	S	C	U	E		
N	B	D	I	V	A	N		E				P		
I	N	B	R	E	D		I	G	U	A	N	A		
O	I		L		D			N				L		
N	E	T	S		E	R	A		E	S	N	E		

FAST FIVE

D	A	T	U	M
S	I	D	L	E
I	N	N	I	T
E	M	O	T	E
M	O	O	E	D

RIDDLER

One

BULL'S EYE

cacti, cast, scat, SCIATIC

QUICK

S	I	G	N	A	L		P	S	Y	C	H	E		
A		R		L		T		H		L		E		
N	V	I	D	I	A		B	A	N	A	N	A		
I		L		E	N	N	U	I		P		N		
T	U	L		K		T	R	E	A	D				
A		H	E	L	O	T		E		T	I	Z	Z	
R	O	O	F		E			T	I	Z			S	
Y		M		B	U	R	M	A					E	
V	I	N	O		F		B	R	I	C			H	
E	N		U	N	C	L	E		U				C	
S	P	O	N	G	E		Y	E	L	L	O	W		
P	O	N	G	E			E	L	L	O		W		
A		U		H				L		E		A		
U	P	S	E	T	S		E	Y	E	S	O	N		

MENSA PUZZLE

11. Working in rows, halve the first number, double the middle number and add them together to give the right hand number.

QUOTE UNCODE

Be a yardstick of quality. Some people aren't used to an environment where excellence is expected.

SUDOKU

7	5	3	8	6	4	1	9	2
4	6	9	3	1	2	8	7	5
8	2	1	9	5	7	6	4	3
3	7	2	1	8	6	9	5	4
1	9	4	7	3	5	2	6	8
6	8	5	4	2	9	3	1	7
9	1	7	2	4	3	5	8	6
5	3	8	6	7	1	4	2	9
2	4	6	5	9	8	7	3	1

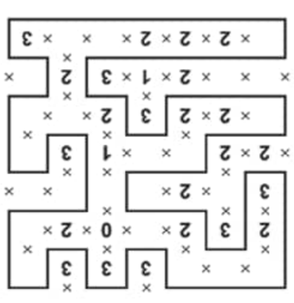
ALPHA TRIANGLE

0 , WO, Row, Wore, Owner, Wonder, Drowned.

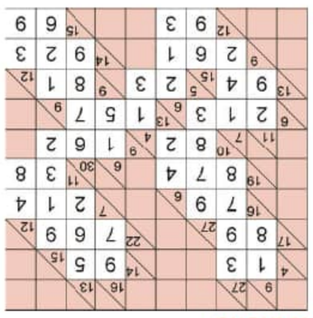
GO FIGURE

Easy
7 + 9 - 6 - 9 = 1
Medium
9 + 9 + 3 + 8 = 29
Hard
5 + 3 \ 8 + 7 = 8

LOOP



KAKURO



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 # Song & dance

Singer-actor Nora Fatehi made her debut on Jimmy Fallon's 'The Tonight Show', with her latest song, "What Do I Know (Just a Girl)", alongside Jamaican singer Shenseea

Into a serial killer's mind

RADHEYAA

3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Veda Guru
- **ACTORS** Krishna Ajai Rao, Sonal Monteiro, Dhanya Balakrishna, Aravind Rao, Girish Shivanna
- **Duration** 121 minutes
- **Certification** U/A

Director Veda Guru has tried to showcase Krishna Ajai Rao, known for his romantic roles, in a different avatar and has succeeded in his endeavour. The director is aptly laying a strong foundation to project the lead character as a serial killer. Ajai Rao's dialogues and gestures keep his fans in good humour.

The movie begins with young Radheyaa taking care of his toddler sister while his father is emptying liquor bottles and his step-mother is sharing a bed with her clients. These circumstances seem stacked up against the young boy, who could push him into the world of crime. The next scene is the bodies of two policemen found hanging from a tree in front of a police station. Assistant Commissioner of Police (Aravind Rao) visits the police station. Radheyaa surrenders to police claiming that he killed 36 people, including advocate Varalakshmi. The police produce Radheyaa in a court where he pleads with the Judge not to let him live but to execute him. The Judge sentences Radheyaa to death.

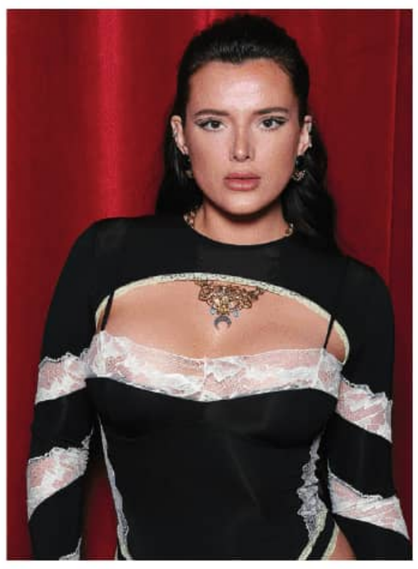
Meanwhile, Radheyaa kills some notorious rowdies in the prison. At this juncture, he wants prison authorities to arrange a meeting with Anupama Niranjan (Dhanya Balakrishna), a crime reporter. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Radheyaa and what the connection between Anupama Niranjan and him is.

As far as the performances of the actors are concerned, Krishna Ajai Rao is at his best. He plays a psycho for the first time in his acting career and it must be said that he has tried his best to live up to his fans' and director's expectations. Sonal Monteiro, as a TV channel reporter, is convincing. Dhanya Balakrishna, as a crime reporter, has acted well. Bala Rajwadi, as a nomad, appears in a scene.

Had the director shed some light on how the protagonist, who goes to prison at a young age for killing two people, manages to own an apartment and how he gets released from the prison, the movie would have made more sense.

But if you crave crime movies, go for it. **—Y Maheswara Reddy**

Not a stunt



Priyanka Chopra is a global star and has fans all over the world, but she recently found herself at the centre of social media criticism after an old video surfaced. In the clip, two fans are seen running after her twice, first at the airport entrance, and then again in front of the media, asking for autographs. Priyanka obliges both times.

The repeated appearance of the same fans sparked speculation that the moment was staged by her PR team to create buzz. Many social media users called it a "fake PR move" and criticised the unnecessary media drama. Hollywood actor Bella Thorne noticed the posts discussing the incident. She commented to defend the 'Bajirao Mastani', saying, "No, I don't think this is a PR stunt. They just follow you everywhere when you're in the terminal. They also sell those pages online."

Thorne explained further, "That's why it's on a blank piece of paper. They can actually take your signature and Photoshop over whatever they want and it would look like you have signed it. Either way I highly doubt she staged it. She's just being nice and signing it again cuz they won't leave her alone and are continuing to follow her through the terminal." **—ETimes**

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